

Message Text

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22

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05
SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /115 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MKBERRY:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

----- 071659

R 091643Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 299421

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - DECEMBER 8

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
DECEMBER 8, 1976:

Q. WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT POSITION REGARDING ANY
U.S. COMPANIES THAT MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN THE ARAB BOYCOTT?

A. I THINK THE PRESIDENT ISSUED SOME DIRECTIVES SOME TIME
AGO ON THAT. I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK AND GET THEM FOR YOU.
I WOULD RATHER NOT TRY TO CITE THEM FROM MEMORY HERE. BUT
THE GENERAL EFFECT WAS THAT AMERICAN COMPANIES SHOULD NOT
PARTICIPATE IN A BOYCOTT IMPOSED BY THE ARABS, AND THAT
CERTAIN INFORMATION WOULD HAVE TO BE REPORTED--I THINK IT
WAS TO THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT--AND THAT THIS INFORMATION
COULD BE MADE PUBLIC.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ON
THAT, RATHER THAN HERE, BUT I WOULD BE HAPPY TO LOOK INTO
IT FOR YOU. I THINK THAT IS THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE
PRESIDENT'S DIRECTIVES. I THINK THEY WERE ALMOST A YEAR
AGO.

Q. I AM WONDERING WHETHER THAT DIRECTIVE WAS ISSUED
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PRIOR TO THE LAW PASSED BY CONGRESS--THE ANTI-BOYCOTT
LEGISLATION.

A. I BELIEVE IT WAS.

Q. WELL THEN I AM INTERESTED IN ASKING ALSO--IF YOU CAN
TAKE THIS QUESTION, IF YOU CAN'T ANSWER IT NOW:

DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THE ANTI-BOYCOTT
LEGISLATION AND THE ANTI-BOYCOTT LAW, SHOULD BE OBEYED?

A. I THINK THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BELIEVES THAT ANY
LAW ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS SHOULD BE ADHERED TO, OF
COURSE.

Q. EXCUSE ME, IN THAT CONTEXT, CALIFORNIA WITHIN THE
LAST TWO MONTHS HAS PASSED A LAW EXACTING PENALTIES ON
BUSINESSES WHICH INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THE ARAB BOYCOTT--
I BELIEVE THAT IS THE FIRST SUCH LAW.

HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT TAKEN A POSITION ON SUCH STATE
LEGISLATION?

A. ON PENALTIES?

Q. YES.

A. FEDERAL PENALTIES, YOU MEAN?

Q. STATE PENALTIES.

A. OH, NO, I AM NOT AWARE THAT WE HAVE TAKEN A POSITION
ON STATE-IMPOSED PENALTIES.

Q. ARE YOU AWARE OF WHETHER OR NOT OTHER STATES HAVE
ENACTED SUCH LEGISLATION?

A. I THINK--AND I AM JUST DOING THIS FROM MEMORY--I
BELIEVE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN A COUPLE OF OTHER STATES
THAT HAVE CONSIDERED THIS. WHETHER THEY HAVE ACTUALLY
GONE TO THE POINT OF ENACTING SOMETHING, I DO NOT KNOW.
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BUT YOU COULD EASILY FIND THAT OUT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE. AND I SHOULD HAVE ADDED TO YOUR QUESTION ABOUT
WHETHER WE BELIEVE THE LAW SHOULD BE OBEYED. MY ANSWER
STANDS, BUT I SHOULD ADD THAT I BELIEVE WE DID HAVE SOME

VIEWS ON THE LEGISLATION THAT WAS PASSED--WHICH, AGAIN, I
WOULD BE HAPPY TO DIG OUT FOR YOU IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
SEE THAT.

Q. YES, I WOULD LIKE THAT.

A. BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE THAT AS AN UNQUALIFIED
ANSWER--THAT IS WHY I AM GOING BACK TO IT.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE A VIEW ON WHAT TYPE OF MILITARY FORCE WOULD BE PERMISSIBLE OR DESIRABLE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON--WHETHER IT BE A SYRIAN REGULAR FORCE, OR PART OF PAN ARAB FORCE, OR PALESTINIAN FORCE, OR A LEBANESE ARMY FORCE?

A. I THINK WE HAVE TO STAND ON WHAT WAS SAID ON THAT. LET ME JUST REPEAT THE FOLLOWING POINTS--I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU WANT ME TO REPEAT THEM, BUT I WILL:

WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED.

WE ARE NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THOSE CONTACTS, ON WHAT WE BELIEVE.

AND I JUST DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO WHAT WE HAVE SAID BEFORE AND NO COMMENT ON THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS BEING PUBLICLY NOTED.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE REPORTED CLASHES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON BETWEEN LEFTISTS AND RIGHTIST FORCES?

A. I DO NOT. ROBINSON

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